

# GREENBELT News Review

An Independent Newspaper

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15 Crescent Rd., Suite 100, Greenbelt, MD 20770-1887

DECEMBER 7, 2017



PHOTO BY JILL CONNOR

Before lighting the Christmas tree at Roosevelt Center on Friday, December 1, Santa hands out candy to Evander Crompton, 2, of Greenbelt, and other children.

## PSAC Makes Recommendations On Security Cameras to Council

by Diane Oberg

How effective are the city's security cameras? Are there enough of them? If not, where else are cameras needed? It was with questions such as these in mind that the Greenbelt City Council asked the Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC) to undertake a comprehensive review of the city's existing cameras, including collecting input from citizens and city staff to

make a city-wide security recommendation.

PSAC presented its report at an October 30 worksession, with chair Cindy Comproni and member Stan Zirkin, who wrote the report, presenting the committee's findings and recommendations. The full report is available in the packet for that meeting in the Agenda Center on the city's website ([greenbeltmd.gov](http://greenbeltmd.gov)).

### PSAC's Recommendation

Based upon its information gathering, including holding three public hearings to gather residents comments, the committee presented the following recommendation: "PSAC has concluded that some of the existing cameras have to be repaired and repositioned; that there needs to be a

See CAMERAS, page 8

## Meeting Focuses on Process For Defeating Maglev Train

by James Giese

Around 200 people attended an informational meeting on Monday, November 27, concerning the proposal to run an SC-maglev train between Baltimore and Washington, with two of the three routes under consideration tunneling under homes in Greenbelt East.

Arranged by Delegate Alonzo Washington and held at Eleanor Roosevelt High School, the meeting provided more information on what those attending could do to stop the train from happening rather than the pros and cons of the SCmaglev proposal, as no

proponents of the project made themselves known at the meeting. Washington said that invitations had been extended to Maryland Governor Larry Hogan, who has expressed strong support for the railway; Maryland Secretary of Transportation Peter Rahn; representatives of the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA), the agency currently undertaking an environmental impact study (EIS) for the proposed routes; and representatives of the Baltimore Washington Rapid Rail, LLC (BWRR), the private firm that is to build and operate the railway.

All had declined the invitation.

One person attending did maintain neutrality. He was Dr. Lei Zhang, a transportation engineer professor who is the director of the National Transportation Center in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Maryland, College Park. Zhang provided some information about maglev train technology and impacts and indicated a willingness to provide more upon request of state legislators or officials, but

See MAGLEV, page 8

## American Education

In celebration of American education, these columns tell the stories of selected teachers from the schools serving the Greenbelt community. This week readers will get a glimpse inside Springhill Lake Elementary School. In coming weeks we will focus on the other local public schools.

The stories feature two teachers or staff members at each school; these are coordinated by David Lange, who originated the series and liaises with the schools, and Alice Murray who works with the reporters and is assisted by Brett Fishburne.

## Friedman Uses Fun Projects To Inspire Student Creativity

by Mary Loutsch

Walking down the hallways of Springhill Lake Elementary School, it is impossible not to admire the students work on display outside of each classroom. Artwork covering bulletin boards show an array of landscapes, animals, buildings and people.



PHOTO BY MARY LOUSCH

Marni Friedman

One of these colorful bulletin boards is right outside of Marni Friedman's classroom. The board is covered in letters that Friedman's fourth-grade class wrote home to family members about their literacy travels to national

parks. For this project, the students read and learned about numerous national parks and chose their favorite. Based on what they read about, the students drew a picture on the front of the card and wrote a letter in first-person to their families about what they did while they were there. "Visuals help with learning," Friedman explained. "The letter format isn't as analytical, but they're still writing so I can see what they need to

See FRIEDMAN, page 6

## Franklin Park's Worksession Shows a Work in Progress

by Diane Oberg

As part of its periodic stakeholders' meetings the Greenbelt City Council met with Franklin Park management on November 29 to receive an update on what's happening within that community. Topics discussed included crime, communications with residents, recycling conditions in the apartment complex and more. On most of these topics, council offered advice on city services and other information that could be helpful to Franklin Park management.

### Residents

Franklin Park is a diverse community, said Denise Knight, director of resident services, including undergraduate and graduate students, military, government and Metro-oriented employees. She did not have information on the demographics of the community but noted "we're a melting pot." Between 60 and 65 percent of units are occupied by families as determined by the number of residents. Rents range from \$1,199 to \$2,249 per month, depending on the number of bedrooms.

### Help Needed

When asked whether there is any area where Franklin Park needs the city's help, Knight quickly responded "youth activities." They need more to do, she said.

### Crime

Acting Chief of Police Thomas Kemp said that crime is still near a 10-year low. While there has been a slight increase in crime recently, there has been no spike in crimes against people or property in Franklin Park. He mentioned that he will be having another "coffee with the chief" at noon on Thursday, December 7 at Beltway Plaza, although, as was pointed out, many residents will be working and unable to attend.

Another safety issue raised was the adequacy of lighting in the complex. Kemp said that the police perform lighting surveys to identify areas that may be attractive to criminals. Franklin Park has vastly improved lighting and has implemented the department's suggestions, Kemp noted.

### Capital Improvements

Aaron Martin, project manager, reported that so far this year Franklin Park has spent \$4.5 million on capital improvements. The old laundry rooms, since replaced with a centralized laundry facility, have been secured and there are no plans to do anything further with these buildings.

Martin noted that they are also working to improve stormwater management in the complex where many drainage pipes have

See FRANKLIN PARK, page 11

## Inside Stories

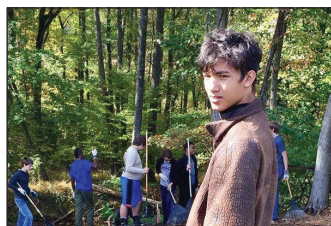


Sally Davies' Torpedo Show Leads to MPT Artworks, p.12

### What Goes On

City Council Meeting  
Monday, Dec.11, 8 p.m.

Holiday Events  
See city ad, page 5



Eagle Scout Project is Last Step For Jaden Dirksen, p.7



**Editorial**

**Our Carriers Bring Holiday Greetings**

Around this time of year it has been traditional for the youngsters who deliver the News Review to leave holiday greetings envelopes at the homes they serve. The News Review does not pay our carriers much. Your generous holiday donations and expressions of appreciation help make their job worthwhile. Most carriers range in age from preteen to the middle teens. For the younger boys and girls, delivering the News Review is their first job experience. Many of the older carriers started at a young age and continue to deliver the News Review mainly as a service to their neighborhood. It is a learning process for all these youngsters and, in some cases, the instillation of responsibility takes time and patience.

The holiday season affords all of us a chance to show appreciation and to provide encouragement for the efforts of these youngsters and at the same time to show understanding for any failings that may have occurred during the year. Again this year, the carriers will leave envelopes. We hope these envelopes, identified with the carrier's name and address, will be helpful to you as you show appreciation. If your carrier's name or address is in doubt, please contact Karen Yoho, our carrier coordinator, at [circ@greenbeltnewsreview.com](mailto:circ@greenbeltnewsreview.com). If you do not have access to email, please leave a voicemail on 301-474-4131 including your name, address (to identify what route your house is on) and a brief description of your question or issue.

## Letters to the Editor

### Kudos for Zero Waste At Tree Lighting

Thanks to the Greenbelt Recreation Department for all its efforts to make the tree lighting ceremony in Roosevelt Center truly a zero waste event. As a Zero Waste Team volunteer, I much appreciated all the planning and work that went into making the celebration a single-stream, all-compostable event.

All items distributed at the tree lighting, including the packaging, were fully compostable and therefore were taken to the county's Western Branch composting facility instead of to the county landfill.

I hope that all city departments and programs can build on this approach for future city events. Our community will reap many benefits, including lower disposal fees, from this natural approach to waste management.

Thanks to all who helped make this a superb event. It was great fun to be a volunteer there.

Tom Taylor

### Worth Defending

I would like to thank the Greenbelt News Review for commissioning and showing the movie "Defending Utopia." The movie highlighted Greenbelt as a special place worth defending from forces which threaten to destroy its unique character. As Greenbelt celebrates its 80th Anniversary, the community faces the most threats it has seen in years. These threats include the increased building density, height and mass proposed under the county's zoning rewrite project, the proposed routing of a high-speed maglev train through Greenbelt and the proposed widening of both the BW Parkway and I-495 Beltway.

Of these threats, perhaps the most insidious is the proposed zoning rewrite project. The project has been framed as one of updating and simplifying the existing 50+ year old zoning ordinance. Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) and the county council have promised throughout the project that the new zoning ordinance would not result in the up-zoning of property, i.e. allowing for more density or intensity than what is currently allowed on a property. As the project closes

in on the finish line, it becomes clear this promise will not be kept.

For example, the current townhouse zone caps townhouse density at six dwelling units per acre. Under the new corresponding zone, maximum density will be increased to 16.33 townhouse dwelling units per acre or 32.66 two-family dwelling units per acre. In addition, the new corresponding zone will allow for additional height on townhouses (up to 50 feet or five stories) and has no minimum requirements for green space.

What does this mean? In GHI, residential density is currently between 3 to 12 dwelling units per acre with a gross density of six dwelling units per acre. To get a sense of the type of density and lack of sun and green space associated with the new proposed zone, one only needs to go to Greenbelt Station. You will notice crowded conditions with shadows cast across streets and tiny yards. These are the conditions which the original Greenbelt town planners were trying to guard against when they planned a community with lots of green space and where sunlight and views were elements of the original design.

Similarly, it is anticipated that the Roosevelt Center will transition to a Commercial and General Office (CGO) zone. This new zone allows mixed-use development and encourages higher density residential development. The CGO zone permits multi-family buildings with up to 48 dwelling units per acre and there is no building height limitation for commercial uses. This means our sunlit Roosevelt Center plaza may be transformed into a dark canyon, losing its allure as a site for our many festivals.

There are plenty of places where higher density and intensity development is currently allowed. If you do not wish to see the unique character of the historic core of the city transformed into anywhere USA, please submit comments on the zoning rewrite via email to [M-NCPPC\(ZoningPGC@ppd.mncppc.org\)](mailto:M-NCPPC(ZoningPGC@ppd.mncppc.org)). The deadline for comments is December 15, 2017. Please make sure to request lower density in the proposed townhouse (R-MFA) zone as well as requesting that our Roosevelt Center be mapped

See **LETTERS**, page 4

### Letters Policy

The News Review reserves the right not to publish any letter submitted. Letters are considered accepted when published.

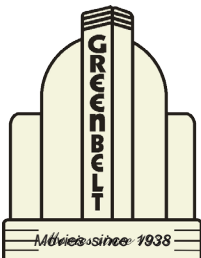
All letters must include the letter writer's name, physical address and telephone number. Only the name will be published; the News Review will consider withholding the name upon request.

All letters are subject to editing for reasons of space, libel, privacy, taste, copy-right and clarity.



PHOTO BY CATHIE MEETRE

Newspaper boxes sprout at Metro stops.



Old Greenbelt Theatre  
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[www.greenbelttheatre.org](http://www.greenbelttheatre.org)

Members always \$6.50!

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All shows before 5 PM:  
Adults \$7, Members \$6.50, Kids \$5

OC = Open Captions  
CC = Closed Captions

SHOWTIMES  
Dec 8th - Dec 14th

LADY BIRD  
(R) (94 mins)  
Fri. 3:00, 5:30, 7:45 PM  
Sat. 1:00, 3:00, 5:30, 7:45 PM  
Sun. 3:00 (OC), 8:00 PM  
Mon. 5:30, 7:45 PM  
Tues. 5:30, 7:45 PM  
Wed. 3:00, 5:30, 7:45 PM  
Thurs. 5:30, 7:45 PM

We the People:  
Human Rights Day  
REID DAVENPORT & WHEELCHAIR DIARIES  
Sun. 1:00 PM - FREE!

STORYTIME ON SCREEN  
Mon. 10:30 AM - FREE!



PHOTO BY MICHAEL REINSEL

Super moon rising over the Lake

# Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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DEADLINES: Letters, Articles and Classified Ads - 8 p.m. Tuesday. Display Ads 4 p.m. Monday, 8 p.m. Tuesday if camera ready. Materials for publication may be mailed to address above, deposited in our box in the Co-op grocery store (by 7 p.m. Tuesday) or brought to our office in the Community Center, 15 Crescent Road, during office hours. Mail subscriptions—\$50/year.

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.  
OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2 - 4 p.m., Tuesday 2 - 4, 6 -10 p.m.



# Community Events

## Menu for Senior Nutrition Program

The Senior Nutrition Food and Friendship program provides lunches for seniors Monday through Friday at the Community Center beginning at noon. Meals must be reserved by 11 a.m. two days ahead so that enough food is ordered. Call 301-397-2208, Ext. 4215.

All meals include margarine, coffee or tea and skim milk. Menu for the week of December 11 is as follows:

Monday, December 11: Pepper beef steak, lima beans, stewed tomatoes, wheat roll, fresh fruit, grape juice.

Tuesday, December 12: All sites closed for Red & Gold Gala.

Wednesday, December 13: Breaded pollock, Delmonico potatoes, spiced carrots, wheat hamburger bun, mayo, fresh fruit, orange juice.

Thursday, December 14: Sliced roast beef with gravy, whipped potatoes, broccoli, cornbread muffin, diced peaches, cranberry juice.

Friday, December 15: Navy bean and vegetable soup with crackers, meatball sub, Japanese vegetables, fresh fruit, apple juice.

## At the Library

### English Conversation Club

Monday, December 11, 6:30 p.m. Learning to speak English? Join our club and practice speaking English in a friendly atmosphere with people from diverse backgrounds. Registration is recommended, as space is limited. (This club will meet weekly on Monday evenings.)

### Storytimes

Tuesday, December 12: Ready 2 Read Storytime, Ages 3 to 5, 7 p.m., limit 20 people. Wednesday, December 13: Ready 2 Read Storytime, Ages 3 to 5, 10:15 a.m., limit 20 people; Ready 2 Read Storytime, Ages 2 to 3, 11:15 a.m., limit 20 people. Thursday, December 14: Ready 2 Read Storytime; Ages 0 to 2, 10:15 and 11:15 a.m., limit 15 babies with parent(s)/caregiver(s); Ready 2 Read Storytime, Ages 2 to 3, 4:15 p.m., limit 20 people.

Encourage children to make reading a positive experience by bringing them to the library's storytimes. Each program contains a mixture of engaging activities and age-appropriate stories that support early literacy. Stop by the Information Desk immediately prior to each session to pick up free tickets available on a first-come, first-served basis.

### Bibliobop Dance Party

Saturday, December 16, 10:30 a.m., ages 2 to 5. Calling all preschoolers and toddlers. Come bust a move and shake your sillies out at the Greenbelt Bibliobop Dance Party. Bring your parents or caregivers and prepare to boogie and bop until we all drop.

### Read to Rover

Saturday, December 16, 2 p.m. Read to Rover is for children age 6 to 11 which helps build reading confidence while reading aloud to specially-trained therapy dogs. Each child will read for 15 minutes. Presented every third Saturday of each month. Registration recommended; call the branch at 301-345-5800 for more information.

## Upcoming Events At the New Deal

Sunday, December 10, 10:30 a.m. to noon, Deaf Group, weekly brunch meeting. 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Jazz Brunch with the Not2Cool Jazz Trio. 6 to 9 p.m., KIVA, Acoustic World Music for the spirit.

Tuesday, December 12, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., Terri & the Back Alley Rhythm Cats, roots rock & roll, rockabilly, country, blues and early R&B.

Wednesday, December 13, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., The Campfire Sessions, a monthly listening room showcasing local songwriters with something to say.

Thursday, December 14, noon to 2 p.m., Mid-Day Melodies with Amy C Kraft. 7 to 10 p.m., Open Mic with James and Martha.

Friday, December 15, 6:30 to 8 p.m., jazz and blues piano by John Guernsey. 8:30 to 11:30 p.m., Black Masala, featuring a wide array of instruments from tuba to accordion to banjo, a colorful mix of sounds from the melodies of Eastern European brass bands, New Orleans jazz, Latin grooves, and even a hint of Appalachian twang.

Saturday, December 16, 1 to 3 p.m., Poetry Open Mic. 4 to 6 p.m., Bruce Kritt, classical guitar. 6:30 to 8 p.m., jazz and blues piano by John Guernsey. 8:30 to 11:30 p.m., Channel Volatile, experimental art rock. Opening Acts: Lauren D'Aria and Patrick Vagnoni, acoustic. Big Green Cherry, quirk-pop, musical theatre group. Phantom Scimitar, contemplative psychedelic.



## Families Anonymous Meets Every Tuesday

Families Anonymous is a 12-step fellowship for people concerned about the use of mind-altering substances or related behavioral problems of a relative or friend. The group meets every Tuesday at 6 p.m. at the Greenbelt Step Club, 141 Centerway. See FamiliesAnonymous.org for more information.

More Community Events  
are located throughout  
the paper.

## Santa Claus Will Visit Fire House Saturday

Here comes Santa Claus, Here comes Santa Claus, right down Crescent Road. Ho, Ho, Ho, guess who is going to visit Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department? Yes, friends and neighbors it is Santa Claus, Santa is coming on Saturday, December 9 from 9 a.m. to noon. Bring children and/or grandchildren down to greet, meet and talk with Santa. Each child will have their picture taken with Santa. The fire department and ladies auxiliary are very excited and are planning on making this an annual event.

In addition to Santa's visit, the ladies auxiliary will be hosting a fund-raising event breakfast/brunch. Breakfast casseroles, scrambled eggs, sausage, toast, juice and coffee will be served for a small donation. For further information and reservations, call Judy at 301-497-0366 or Kathy at 301-474-4372.



## GHI Notes

Thursday, December 7, 7:30 p.m., Board of Directors Meeting, Board Room

Saturday, December 9, 11 a.m., Pre-purchase Orientation, Board Room

Tuesday, December 12, 7:30 p.m., Legislative and Government Affairs Committee Meeting, Board Room

Wednesday, December 13, 7:30 p.m., Architectural Review Committee Meeting, Board Room

Thursday, December 14, 10 a.m., Storm Water Management Task Force Meeting, Board Room

Thursday, December 14, 6:30 p.m., Investment Committee Meeting, Board Room

Thursday, December 14, 7 p.m., Finance Committee Meeting, Board Room

Friday, December 15, office closed. Emergency maintenance service available at 301-474-6011.

## Drop Us a Line!

Electronically, that is.  
[editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com](mailto:editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com)

## Greenbelt Access Television, Inc. (GATe)

2nd Floor, Greenbelt Community Center, Suite 204  
[www.greenbeltaccessstv.org](http://www.greenbeltaccessstv.org) • Studio: 301-507-6581

### Free and Open to the Public Board of Directors' Meeting

Tuesday, Dec. 19th, 7:30PM

### Members Only – Reservations required Canon Camera Class - \$\$

Saturday, Dec 9th, 9:30-4PM

And Monday, Dec. 11th, from 7-10PM

Check out our Channel on Comcast 77 and Verizon Fios 19  
To view our schedule, visit: [www.greenbeltaccessstv.org](http://www.greenbeltaccessstv.org)  
And click on "Channel"

## Holiday Celebration And GIVES Meeting

Greenbelt Intergenerational Volunteer Exchange Service (GIVES) will have its quarterly meeting on Saturday, December 9 at 10 a.m. in the Community Center.

This will be a short meeting, followed by a holiday celebration. New, potential members are cordially invited to come and meet the members, and then get a chance to become acquainted with GIVES activities in the city.

Members are invited to bring food to share. All are welcome. For further information, call Jean Cook at 301-345-2597.

## Star Party Saturday

The Astronomical Society of Greenbelt will host a star party, open to the public, on Saturday, December 9 at the Observatory, located at Northway Fields. Through the Observatory telescope attendees may expect to see deep sky objects such as galaxies, nebulae and star clusters, viewed with our astronomical camera. Visitors are welcome to set up personal telescopes on the hill.

Observing will begin at around 6 p.m. and continue for about two hours. There is no fee for the event. Attendees are asked to park in the ballfield lot, not up on the hill, unless bringing a telescope. The star party will be canceled without notice if it is hopelessly cloudy.



## Events at MakerSpace

Bring on the cold. Come into the MakerSpace to warm up during the following activities:

Thursday, December 7: Tech Night. Coder Dojo (kids) from 5:30 to 7 p.m., Gadget Workshop from 7 to 8:30 p.m. and Coder Dojo for projects from 8:30 to 10 p.m.

Friday, December 8: Little Makers from 5 to 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 9: First Lego League Robotics Team 3 from 1 to 2:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 10: Animation Meetup from 2 to 4 p.m.

Monday, December 11: First Lego League (FLL) Team 1 from 5 to 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, December 12: FLL Team 2 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. and Labradoodles from 7:30 to 9 p.m.

Wednesday, December 13: Fiber Fans from 6 to 9 p.m.

## At Greenbelt Park

Saturday, December 9: Who's that Fox? A park ranger will discuss the red fox that lives in Greenbelt Park. Learn about the characteristics of a fox and interesting facts about their habitat. Meet at the Ranger Station classroom at 10 a.m.

Saturday, December 9: Ranger Talk and Display, Camouflage: A Military Adaptation from Nature: Animals camouflage themselves to hide in plain sight, protecting their species from predators. The military also uses camouflage to conceal troops and equipment or to distort their appearance so that they disappear to the enemy. Meet at the Ranger Station at 1 p.m.

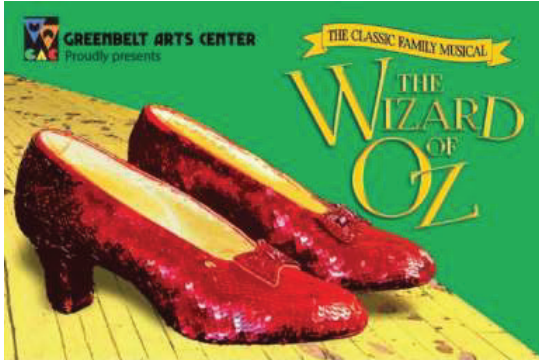
Utopia Film Festival Presents  
Sunday, Dec. 10th, Wed., Dec. 13th, & Fri., Dec. 15th  
Beginning at 8 PM

From 2011:  
"Souls of Mischief," "Puker," "Unforgettable Proposal," and "Living On Your Feet (2010)"

On Greenbelt Access Television, Inc. (GATe)  
Comcast 77 & Verizon Fios 19 Channels

## Greenbelt Arts Center TICKETS GOING FAST!

### THE WIZARD OF OZ



by L. Frank Baum  
Music and Lyrics by Harold Arlen and E. Y. Harburg  
Background Music by Herbert Stothard,  
Dance and Vocal Arrangements by Peter Howard, Orchestration by Larry Wilcox  
Adapted by John Kane for the Royal Shakespeare Company  
Directed by Jon Gardner, Produced by Win Britt Musical Direction by Daniel Flores  
Choreography by Rikki Howie Lacewell and Elizabeth Gardner  
December 8, 9, 15 at 8PM  
Matinees: December 10, 16, 17 at 2PM  
Ticket prices: \$25 General Admission, \$22 Students/Seniors/Military, \$14 Youth (12 and under with adult)  
PLEASE GIVE TO OUR INDIEGOGO CAMPAIGN  
[www.indiegogo.com/projects/let-there-be-lights-community#](http://www.indiegogo.com/projects/let-there-be-lights-community#)

### COMING SOON

AUDITIONS – *Angel Street* – December 10 - 11  
*Almost, Maine* – Jan 26– Feb 17, 2018 - Executive Directed by Bob Kleinberg

For information & reservations, call 301-441-8770 or  
email: [info@greenbeltartscenter.org](mailto:info@greenbeltartscenter.org) or  
BOOK TICKETS ONLINE at [www.greenbeltartscenter.org](http://www.greenbeltartscenter.org)



# Letters continued

to a zone more consistent with its existing character such as the proposed Commercial Neighborhood Zone.

Molly Lester

## More B30 Changes

The B30 bus no longer picks up passengers at both bus stops at the BWI airport. Upon arrival last week the first notification that I found was when I exited the door with my luggage. A green sign that said regional buses were picking up passengers at Door 18 (by the international flight check-in). Eighteen doors later I arrived in time to catch the hourly bus. I walked pulling heavy luggage to the farthest end of the airport to the remaining bus stop.

As of Monday, December 4, the current schedule online was from June and there was no notification of any change. This I believe is meant as a tactic to discourage people from using this bus. There is no change in cost to WMATA when the bus stops just beyond the Southwest Airlines terminal.

In addition, at a meeting with our Greenbelt City Council this autumn, the WMATA representative told us that the June changes with the reduced schedule and no weekend trips had produced good ridership statistics this summer. He added that ridership would diminish in the winter. Now WMATA has found a way to diminish ridership further.

If others know how to influence WMATA to reopen that bus pickup location or are willing to work with a group to achieve that goal, please let me know by Facebook Messenger. I will take no action unless other people value the B30 bus line.

Mary Ernsberger

## Pickleball Concerns

Pickleball, which has been described as a combination of tennis, ping pong and badminton, is one of the faster growing sports in the country. We have a dedicated group of players here in Greenbelt. For over two years we have been asking to be able to put tape lines down on the gym floor to delineate the boundaries for the game. All the other gyms in Prince George's County

in which we play have this tape on the floor or permanent painted lines. The tape does not harm the floor nor is it hazardous to people playing or walking on the court. We have been steadfastly refused in this request.

We just learned that the floor of the Community Center gym, where we play, will be resurfaced this month. Yet we still have no commitment from the Recreation Department that the pickleball lines will be painted or taped on the surface at that time.

The lack of boundary lines is the reason we are not able to grow the sport in Greenbelt. We actually have Greenbelt residents who refuse to play here because of this issue. It is difficult to play a game where you only have a suggestion of boundary lines created by placing pieces of plastic on the floor each time we play. Also, we could fit at least two pickleball courts and probably three in the gym space. This would allow more people to play at once, rather than waiting for others to finish.

Once the floor is refinished this year, it will probably not be resurfaced for another 10 years. Since it is mostly senior citizens who play now, we are not willing to wait another 10 years. We are hoping for a positive response from the Recreation Department.

Alice Noe, Stan Zirkin, Chris Logan, Barry Holoher, Patrick Knight, Jerry Dancis, Wayne Cumberland, Linda Showlund



Condolences to Greenbelt Assistant City Manager, David Moran, whose father, Thomas Moran, died on December 3.

Congratulations to Debbie Fishbeck, Miss Greenbelt 2010, for being featured in Rotunda, the magazine of the American Museum of Natural History. The article is titled Find Out What It Takes to Be a Science Teacher at the MAT Program's Open House.

Congratulations to Eleanor Roosevelt High School for being named a Top Source School for Undergraduate Science Majors. The honor was given by University of Maryland, College of Computer, Mathematical and Natural Sciences.

Please share your accomplishments, milestones and news in the Our Neighbors column. Send details of your news items to editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.

## Christmas Concert At Community Church

The Greenbelt Community Church, United Church of Christ, will present a free concert of classic Christmas music and newer Christmas favorites on Saturday, December 9 at 7 p.m. at the church, located at 1 Hillside Road.

The Relics, a group of church members who are professional and semiprofessional musicians, will perform.

The church will host a bake sale at intermission.

A freewill offering will be accepted to support the work of the church in the community.

# Obituaries

## Thomas Paul Moran

Thomas Moran died on December 3, 2017. He was born January 28, 1933 in Washington, D.C., and grew up in College Park. He attended Holy Redeemer School and DeMatha Catholic High School and received a bachelor's degree in business from the University of Maryland. Mr. Moran served in the Army for two years and then worked as a business analyst with USDA – APHIS until he retired in 1988.

He married Loraine Reilly on May 1, 1965 and raised two children, David (Sara) and Kathleen (Efrain Betancourt), and two granddaughters (Mikayla and Natasha). Mr. and Mrs. Moran lived in Boxwood Village for 48 years and recently moved to Hillhaven Assisted Living in Adelphi.

Mr. Moran was an active member of St. Hugh's Church. After retiring, the Morans enjoyed traveling. Mr. Moran also volunteered for 25 years as an AARP tax aide, helping seniors prepare their income taxes. He

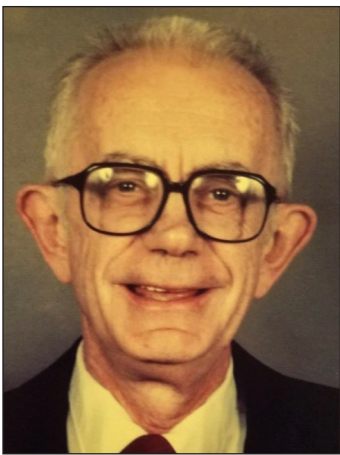


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MORAN FAMILY

Thomas Moran

delivered Meals on Wheels and served on the Co-op Supermarket board of directors. In 2014, the GAIL Program named him their Volunteer of the Year.

A funeral mass at St. Hugh's and interment at Gate of Heaven Cemetery will occur on Thursday, December 7. Memorial donations may be made to Meals on Wheels of College Park, 9601 Rhode Island Ave., College Park.

## Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church

40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt

Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors

www.greenbeltumc.org 301-474-9410

Rev. Fay Lundin, Pastor



Worship Service 10 a.m.

Speed is not as important as direction.

## Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church

3215 Powder Mill Road, Adelphi

Phone: 301-937-3666

www.pbuuc.org



Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community



December 10 10 a.m.

"Hospitality and Welcome"

Rev. Rachel Christensen, Minister; Mary Tyrtle Rooker, Worship Associate; with Carla Miller, DMRE

How do we approach being welcoming? And what are the boundaries that we set to make real welcoming possible?

## Greenbelt Community Church

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



1 Hillside (at Crescent Road)

Phone: 301-474-6171 mornings

www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org



Sunday Worship

10:15 a.m.

Rev. Glennyce Grindstaff, Pastor

## Obituaries

The News Review publishes obituaries of Greenbelt residents, past or present.

You write it or we will if you prefer. We try to include information about participation in various activities and organizations, where the person lived and something about the family. A photograph and service information should be included. There is no charge.



Catholic Community of Greenbelt MASS

Sundays 10 A.M. Municipal Building

ALL ARE WELCOME.

## Mishkan Torah Congregation



10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770

Rabbi Saul Oresky Cantor Phil Greenfield

Friday evening services 8:00 PM, except first Friday of the month, when children's service begins at 7:00 PM

Saturday morning services at 9:30 AM. Children's Education, Adult Education, Social Action, etc.

For further information call 301 474-4223 www.mishkantorah.org Conservative and Reconstructionist



Sunday Worship:

9:30 a.m. in English

11:00 a.m. in Korean

Rev. Jongkil Na

www.APLChurch.org

Come and Join Us

Located in the Beltsville Professional Center



### Sen. Muse To Speak To Democratic Club

by Konrad Herling

Nationally, Democrats can celebrate strong victories in Virginia and New Jersey, and our local Eleanor & Franklin Roosevelt Democratic Club membership can share in that cheer. The club, which has grown to over 150 members, will hold its monthly meeting Friday, December 15 at 7 p.m. in the Greenbriar Community Building at 7600 Hanover Parkway.

State Senator C. Anthony Muse will be the guest speaker, the newly elected board of directors will be installed and there will be refreshments.

Muse, a candidate for Prince George's County executive, identifies schools, health care and economic development as his top three priorities if elected. He questions the validity of high test scores of students, and regarding one aspect of economic development, he seeks to find an arrangement where U.S. Census Bureau employees, working behind a fence at their headquarters, be more integrated with the Suitland community.

Muse was first elected as a state delegate in 1994. He ran unsuccessfully for county executive in 2002, but was elected to the state senate in 2006. In an interview, he said he would bring bold leadership to county government. In Annapolis, he has sponsored legislation to secure funding for domestic violence survivors and worked to expunge certain criminal convictions.

Former U.S. Representative Donna Edwards and former aide to President Obama, Paul Monteiro, will speak this coming January and February.

For information see website, rooseveltclub.com, or call 202-321-4207.

### Afternoon Campfire Sing-along at Refuge

On Sunday, December 10 from 2 to 2:45 p.m., join a sing-along at the Patuxent Research Refuge. This event is for all ages; parental participation is required. Nature troubadour Stina leads an afternoon indoor campfire sing-along in the auditorium. Get a groove on with fun and silly nature songs.

Public programs at the refuge are free although advance registration is required by calling 301-497-5887. For more information visit the website at fws.gov/refuge/Patuxent. The Visitor Center is on Powder Mill Road between the Baltimore-Washington Parkway and Route 197.



### Holy Cross Thrift Store

Every Thursday  
10am – 4pm

Good, clean clothes for women, men and children!  
Shoes, jewelry, books, etc.

6905 Greenbelt Road  
Greenbelt, Md. 301-345-5111

### Paul Pinsky to Hold Town Hall Meeting

On Saturday, December 9 from 9:30 to 11 a.m. State Senator Paul Pinsky will hold his annual Town Hall Meeting at Lamont Elementary School, 7101 Good Luck Road, New Carrollton. Pinsky will share a legislative update and set aside time to answer questions. Representatives from the Purple Line will also be on hand to give a construction update and answer questions. For more information call 240-391-8154 or email ppinsky@senatorpinsky.org.



# City Information

#### GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL- REGULAR MEETING Municipal Building, December 11, 2017 – 8:00 p.m.

##### ORGANIZATION

Call to Order  
Roll Call  
Meditation and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag  
Consent Agenda – Approval of Staff Recommendations (Items on the Consent Agenda [marked by \*] will be approved as recommended by staff, subject to removal from the Consent Agenda by Council.)  
Approval of Agenda and Additions

##### COMMUNICATIONS

- Presentations  
- Petitions and Requests  
(Petitions received at the meeting will not be acted upon by the City Council at this meeting unless Council waives its Standing Rules.)  
- Minutes of Council Meeting  
- Administrative Reports  
\* - Committee Reports

##### LEGISLATION

- Charter Amendment for Voting at 16

##### OTHER BUSINESS

- Prince George's County Zoning Rewrite  
- Website Rebuild  
- Recreation Logo  
- Legislative Agenda  
- Reserve Study – Long Term Infrastructure  
\*- Resignation from the Advisory Groups  
- Council Activities  
- Council Reports

NOTE: This is a preliminary agenda, subject to change. Regular Council meetings are open to the public, and all interested citizens are invited to attend. If special accommodations are required for any disabled person, please call 301-474-8000 no later than 10am on the meeting day. Deaf individuals are advised to use MD RELAY at 711 or e-mail banderson@greenbeltmd.gov to reach the City Clerk.



### SCAMS AND FRAUD

Tuesday, December 19  
1-3pm

Greenbelt Community Ctr.  
15 Crescent Road

Come out to this free seminar and find out about Scams and Frauds that are taking place in and around our community. Learn about what steps you can take to avoid being victimized. This multimedia presentation is part of a Lecture Series sponsored by the Greenbelt Citizen's Police Academy and the Greenbelt Police Department.

For more information: George Mathews at 240-542-2116.

### LEAF VACUUM SCHEDULE



The City Public Works Department will again collect loose leaves with the leaf vacuum through January 12, 2018. We remind residents to rake the leaves to the curb, but not into the street, and to remove all sticks and stones from the pile as these can damage the machinery. Areas to be collected will be posted as in past years. We also remind residents not to park in front of leaf piles.

##### WEEK OF:

December 11-15 : Woodland Hills, Greenbrook Village Estates and Windsor Green  
December 19-23: Lakewood and Greenspring I & II  
December 26-29: Lakeside and Windsor Green  
January 2-5 and 8-12: All Areas

### VACANCIES ON BOARDS & COMMITTEES

Volunteer to serve on City Council Advisory Groups.

There are currently vacancies on: Advisory Committee on Education, Advisory Planning Board, Arts Advisory Board, Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability, Park and Recreation Advisory Board and Youth Advisory Committee.

For information on how to apply call 301-474-8000.

### Free Diabetes Support Group

Doctors Community Hospital will hold a free diabetes support group on Monday, December 18 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. The meeting will be at 8100 Good Luck Road on the 5th floor of the North Building. To register call 301-552-8661.

### Free Lymphedema Support Group

On Monday, December 18 from 2 to 4 p.m. Doctors Community Hospital will hold a free education and support meeting for those combating lymphedema. The meeting will take place on the 5th floor of the North Building. To register call 301-552-8144.

#### GREENBELT COMMUNITY PLEDGE

*"The strength of Greenbelt is diverse people living together in a spirit of cooperation. We celebrate people of many cultures, faiths, and races living together. By sharing together all are enriched.*

*We pledge to foster a community which is respectful, safe, and fair for all people."*

#### MEETINGS FOR WEEK OF DECEMBER 11-15

Monday, December 11 at 5:30pm, **YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE** at Community Center, 15 Crescent Road. *On the Agenda: Youth Forum update, YAC Liaison Reports, NLC Summit attendance report*

Monday, December 11 at 8:00pm, **REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING** at Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road. Live on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 and streaming on [www.greenbeltmd.gov/municipaltv](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/municipaltv)

Tuesday, December 12 at 7:00pm, **ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION (ACE)** at Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road. *On the Agenda: Planning for Principals' Meeting, Recommendations for Changes to Student Awards, Grants Review*

Wednesday, December 13 at 6:00pm, **LEGISLATIVE DINNER**

Wednesday, December 13 at 7:30pm, **ADVISORY PLANNING BOARD** at Community Center, 15 Crescent Road. *On the Agenda: Ongoing discussion of Preliminary NCO Zone draft*

Wednesday, December 13 at 7:30pm, **PARK AND RECREATION ADVISORY PLANNING BOARD** at Community Center, 15 Crescent Road. *On the Agenda: Mayor's report and Department Updates*

**This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call 301-474-8000.**



### SANTA'S VISIT

Ages Pre-K+  
Greenbelt Youth Center  
Saturday, December 9,  
10am-12pm

Santa has fit time into his busy holiday schedule! All children will receive a FREE picture with Santa!

### ELVES' WORKSHOP

#139502-1  
Ages 7-12  
Greenbelt Youth Center  
Saturday, December 9,

1:30-3:30pm, \$10/Child

Pre-registration is required. Spend the afternoon with Santa's Elves creating holiday crafts and cookies.

### GREENBELT CONCERT BAND HOLIDAY LIGHTS CONCERT

Greenbelt Community Center Gym

Sunday, December 10, 3:00pm - Free

Hear all your holiday favorites, played live by the members of your community band under the direction of Joan Rackey.

### NORTH POLE CALLING

Ages pre-school through second grade

Tuesday, December 12 - Thursday, December 14  
6:00-7:30pm, FREE

Santa and his helpers will make a special CALL to your home to check whether your kids are being naughty or nice. Complete the informational flier available online [www.greenbeltmd.gov/recreation](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/recreation) and throughout city recreational facilities for your child's opportunity to chat. Return flier by 12/14 to the Greenbelt Youth Center, 99 Centerway.



# Ma Beverly Datu Teaches Appreciation of Music

by Mary Loutsch

Ma Beverly Datu has been a full-time music teacher at Springhill Lake Elementary School for three years. Born and raised in the Philippines, Datu received her bachelor's degree from St. Scholastica's College, Manila, where she was a double major in piano and music education.



Ma Beverly Datu

PHOTO BY MARY LOUTCCH

perform," says Datu. "So at the beginning of class, I review concepts and then I have them apply what they learned. Depending on the class and grade level, there are times when I have to teach rhythm and melody separately and then put them together."

When teaching rhythm, Datu will often write the patterns herself as each of her classes might be at different learning levels. The students will then clap the patterns together or practice on the percussion instruments in the classroom such as drums and bells. For melody and singing, students will match pitch while Datu plays notes on the classroom's keyboard.

Music class isn't all fun and games, however. Datu also grades her students on homework, participation and tests, but she realizes some students might struggle more with tests or understanding music concepts.

"I always tell my students that I grade effort more than skill," says Datu. "You don't have to be Mozart to get an A in my class to show me that you're putting effort in and trying your best." Datu says her favorite part of teaching music is "When the students perform to the best of their abilities and when they feel proud of what they can do, I'm happy because I know I've made a difference in their lives."

"I love to teach, it's my passion," says Datu. "My mom was an English teacher in the Philippines and when I was younger she would bring me to her class, give me a portion of the blackboard, a piece of chalk and I would imitate her. I told myself that – one day – I wanted to be like her." Datu moved to the United States in 2003 where she taught music class at Tsehootsoi Elementary School in Window Rock, Ariz., for almost 12 years prior to moving to Maryland. She received her master's degree in English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) from Grand Canyon University.

Currently, Datu's students are busy preparing for their upcoming holiday programs – a break from their usual curriculum. Once the holidays are over, the students will go back to learning music concepts such as rhythm, melody, singing and playing instruments. Through teaching these concepts, Datu hopes she can instill a deeper appreciation for music in her students. "I don't think music is music unless you

## FRIEDMAN continued from page 1

work on."

Through this project, Friedman devised a fun way for students to learn about a new topic and use their imaginations – while at the same time getting students excited about reading and writing. Friedman has been teaching fourth grade at Springhill Lake for nearly two years. Prior to this position, she was a full-time substitute teacher at Ebb Valley and Manchester Elementary in Carroll County. "I really love it," Friedman says of teaching. "Part of why I took this job was because I wanted my own classroom."

While Friedman did not originally pursue a career in education she admits that, "teaching was always in the back of my mind." After receiving her bachelor's degree from Towson University with a double major in history and international studies, Friedman began working at T. Rowe Price. She admits that, "Even when I was working in finance, I was thinking of becoming an employee trainer so I was always drawn to teaching – in some aspect – without even realizing it." Eventually, Friedman decided to pursue a career in education, went back to school and graduated with a master of arts in teaching from Towson University.

Today, Friedman is always looking for new ways to help her students learn. With 29 students in each class, it can be challenging to give every student specialized attention, especially if they are struggling with certain concepts. Friedman accomplishes this feat through small group

work and learning centers where students learn and work with specific concepts. For example, right now students can visit the typing center where they use the classroom computer and practice their typing skills. She also has a newspaper learning center where students choose a book to read, and based on the plot and characters of their story, create a newspaper headline. This exercise helps students pinpoint and summarize the main idea of a story.

Friedman shared her ideas for new learning centers that involve more games and creative projects. One is a grammar center where students will play different games that allow them to practice using the correct punctuation in sentences. The other activity, called Host an Event, will have students read a book and design an invitation that the book's main character would send out to the other characters in the book. An example would be if students read Alice's Adventures In Wonderland, they would be tasked with designing an invitation to

## GES Welcomes New Nurse

Principal Monica Gaines of Greenbelt Elementary School announced that Veronica David, RN, began work as its new nurse on Monday, December 4. The school had been without the services of a nurse for almost three months prior to this time. For further information or any questions, contact Gaines at 301-513-5911.

## Watkins Park Lights Have a New Twist

This year, come out and experience a new twist on a family's favorite holiday tradition, the Festival of Lights at Watkins Regional Park. This year the tree lights are synchronized to dance to seasonal music, a dazzling new lights display.

And while there are new sights and sounds at Watkins Park, some things have stayed the same. Expect to see millions of cheerful lights running throughout the park and one of the state's tallest trees. Also count on hearing some favorite holiday tunes while sampling seasonal drinks like hot chocolate and warm apple cider. This year, as usual, festival organizers are collecting canned goods donations for a local food bank. There is a fee.

The Festival of Lights will run through Monday, January 1 from 5 to 9:30 p.m. at Watkins Regional Park, 301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro.



the tea party Alice attends in the book. Friedman mentioned how she would like to start incorporating the computer into these projects, as computer savviness is an important skill in today's society.

These small groups and learning centers make it easier for Friedman to give each student more attention and identify the areas they are struggling with, while at the same time transforming the learning process into a fun and creative activity.

Friedman says her favorite part of teaching is "seeing the kids become successful, or grow in the classroom."

She admits that, "When you see a lightbulb go off and you know that – just because of you – they were able to get a grasp of this concept. That really is the best part."

Mary Loutsch is the Dorothy Sucher intern writing for the News Review.



# UMD Honors Roosevelt Alum Monardes, Mentor Bradbury

by Stephanie Selzer



PHOTO COURTESY OF UMD

ERHS Alum Montana Monardes and current ERHS teacher, Troy Bradbury

Eleanor Roosevelt High School alum Montana Monardes was one of 19 students recognized as a Philip Merrill Presidential Scholar at the University of Maryland last month.

The Philip Merrill Presidential Scholars program honors outstanding seniors who are nominated by their academic school or college. As a theater major, Monardes was one of just three students nominated from the College of Arts and Humanities.

Scholars were recognized during a November 17 lunch with University President Wallace Loh and the Merrill family. To celebrate the importance of teaching and mentorship, scholars are asked to select one university faculty member and one K-12 mentor to join them for the ceremony.

Monardes selected his former Roosevelt teacher and mentor Troy Bradbury. "He always respected what we had to say and fostered an environment that encouraged creative thinking," said Monardes on why he selected Bradbury as his K-12 mentor.

Monardes was one of the first students to participate in the College Board AP Capstone program at Roosevelt led by Bradbury. The program focuses on critical thinking, in depth research and high level presentation skills.

According to Bradbury, Monardes was a fantastic student. "He was vocal. He was engaged," said Bradbury. "He was not afraid to articulate his responses."

Monardes believes his experiences with Bradbury and the College Board AP Capstone program really prepared him for success in college. "UMD has a reputation for the research that is done here," he said. "And Mr. Bradbury gave us an excellent

foundation for how to go about being thorough researchers."

In addition to the luncheon, the Philip Merrill Presidential Scholars program recognizes K-12 mentors by establishing a \$1,000 scholarship in their name. The scholarship goes to a first-year UMD student from the mentor's school or district. Bradbury hopes his scholarship will go to another College Board AP Capstone student from Roosevelt.

Monardes is scheduled to graduate in the spring. He plans to stay in the area for now and make use of the connections he has made at UMD. Once he has gotten more professional experience, he hopes to go to Los Angeles and audition for film and television.

Stephanie Selzer is a University of Maryland graduate student in journalism writing for the News Review.



## Greenbelt Fire Dept. Breakfast/Brunch

Casseroles, Sausage, Eggs, Coffee, Juice

Meet, greet, and talk with Santa

December 9, 9 am - noon

Children under 6 – Free

All others - \$7 /person

125 Crescent Road      Reservations recommended

For more information call:  
Judy : 301-497-0366; Kathy :301-474-4372



**December 8 - 17**  
**\$15 Adult, \$12 Students, Senior, Military**  
**\$10 Group Rates 10 or more!**

**First Baptist Church of Hyattsville**  
**Call 240-565-4144 for ticketing information!**  
**Santa will be visiting at each performance!**  
**Presented by Wolf Pack Theatre Company, Community Crisis Services and First Baptist**



# Eagle Scout Project Plants A New Pollinator Garden

by Ilona Horchler

Walk down from the Buddy Attick Park parking lot to the Greenbelt Lake trail, take a right and check out the area at the back of the big field just before the stream. Our bee and butterfly friends have a new home at Greenbelt Lake. At the moment, there's only a clearing with some straw, but in the spring an array of different species of wildflowers will begin to appear, including African daisy, baby's breath, black-eyed susan, forget-me-not and pink catchfly – a beautiful new pollinator garden.

This garden is Jaden Dirksen's Eagle Scout project. Seventeen-year-old Jaden, who has spent most of his life in Greenbelt, is currently a Life Rank scout and just a couple of merit badges away from becoming an Eagle Scout. Jaden joined the Greenbelt Cub Scout Pack 202 in first grade and Riverdale Scout Troop 214 at the age of 12. He enjoys scouting due to the sense of camaraderie, productivity, activity and development of important life skills that scouting provides.

As a resident of Greenbelt and someone who cares deeply for the environment, Jaden had long had the idea of creating a pollinator garden. Jaden really appreciates that his community in Greenbelt is walkable and has a good balance between being quiet and entertaining. Adding a pollinator garden was a way he knew he could contribute to Greenbelt's ecosystem in a long-lasting way. He worked with advisors from the Department of Public Works, especially Brian Townsend, to determine the location and needs. For his fundraising efforts to

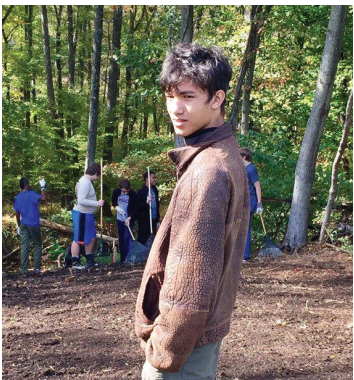


PHOTO BY MATT DIRKSEN

Jaden Dirksen supervises volunteer scouts.

purchase items such as seed and sand, he received support from fellow Greenbelters. Generous Joe's Joe Natoli helped provide pizza as an extra incentive for scouts to participate. Jaden asked scouts to bring shovels, spades, wheelbarrows, rakes and gardening gloves. He provided a bucket for mixing seed with sand and a few extra shovels and rakes.

Around 13 scouts and some adults came to volunteer on Saturday, October 28. Jaden described the experience of creating the pollinator garden as one that was very enjoyable and a learning experience in management. Two of his scout friends served as his seconds-in-command to help manage the project and motivate the scouts.

The scouts started by clearing rocks and large branches and weeding the area. A couple of adult volunteers went over the area with a rotary tiller. Then scouts planted Newsom Seed Wildflower Mix, which is made up of 75 percent perennial and 25 percent annual wildflowers. Scouts raked over the area and

laid straw. The project took about two hours in total, less time than originally expected.

When asked how this pollinator garden will help Greenbelt, Jaden responded, "The bee population in the U.S. is not doing well. One of the main reasons is that flower space is being replaced with grass . . . we need bees and butterflies to pollinate plants. Pollination is important because it leads to the production of seeds that create more plants."

Townsend, who has served as horticultural supervisor for public works for 29 years, played a major role in the realization of Jaden's project. He worked with Jaden for about a month prior to the event and said that this experience gave Jaden a "good opportunity to learn about supervision and planning and to develop important life skills." He said that the scouts seemed to have fun while gardening and learning to care for our green space and that Jaden and his team managed the event efficiently. It was "nice to work with Jaden and it's good for the city. [This kind of event] gets people invested in public parks because, if you feel you've put effort and time into something, you are more likely to respect and care for it."

Sam Ricketts-Stewart said that he learned that "you should always cover seeds with straw so that birds can't get to them." He said, "I definitely wanted to be there to help one of my fellow scouts complete the Eagle rank and help the environment." Andrew Jones said that he learned how to use some new gardening tools and was excited that he was able to explain what community service is to a small child passing by with parents. When asked why he wanted to be there, Andrew answered, "I felt like doing something good. And the pizza was good, too!"

Caleb Carr was also happy to be helping out. Caleb said, "I learned that when a lot of people do something, it's a lot easier to do."

Anyone who would like to congratulate Jaden Dirksen and the scouts of Troop 214 on a job well done can join us for a Holiday Brunch on Sunday, December 17 between 9 a.m. and noon at the Prince George's County Elks Lodge, 6700 Kenilworth Avenue.

## Festival of Lights



PHOTO BY JILL CONNOR

Puppet artist Michelle Puhl-Price shows off some of her wares at the Greenbelt Arts and Crafts Fair.



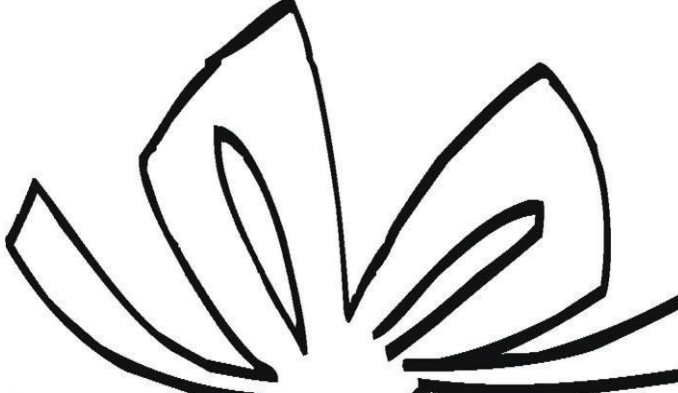
PHOTO BY REBECCA SUTFIN

Members of the Southern Comfort Quilt Guild pose by their booth.

More photos from the weekend are scattered throughout the paper.

### Send us your photos!

The News Review would like to print more photos of Greenbelt landmarks, activities and the changing seasons. Photos should be at least 300 dpi, and must include the name of the photographer and a caption. The caption must name any identifiable people in the photo, as well as explain the picture. Send us no more than five photos at a time.




### Holiday Loans

WITH  
Greenbelt Federal Credit Union  
(301)-474-5900  
[www.greenbeltfcu.com](http://www.greenbeltfcu.com)

As low as 5% APR!

Our holiday loans are here to help you cover all of your holiday shopping needs!



APR= annual percentage rate. Rate subject to change without notice. Rate based on credit.



PHOTO BY PAUL CARR

Gary Sanderson works the rotary tiller and Brian Townsend looks for missed spots while scouts Joshua Sanderson, Andrew Jones, Alexander "Harry" Barringer and Jonathan Furlong work the rakes.

JGLLAW

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## CAMERAS continued from page 1

longer retention period of information captured by the cameras; that regularized maintenance from an outside contractor needs to be implemented; and that new security cameras should be considered or phased in as finances permit.”

### Phase I

PSAC recommended that the changes to the system be broken into phases. In Phase I, cameras at Springhill Lake Recreation Center and Springhill Drive would be repositioned and the pan/tilt feature would be disabled, if possible. In addition, the cameras at the Spellman Overpass have frequent outages and lasting maintenance needs to be done.

PSAC also wants the city to address the “inordinately large amount of time” it takes to repair a malfunctioning camera. To this end, they strongly urged council to add funds in each year’s budget for ongoing maintenance and repair and to hire a contractor to ensure that the cameras are kept in good working order with as little downtime as possible.

### Phase II

As funds permit, PSAC recommended that the city should consider installing eleven more cameras in designated areas and that it procure 180/360-degree cameras, which scan broader areas at one time, and make sure those cameras are functional in low light/nighttime whenever possible. The recommended locations include four in the area of Franklin Park and the Metro station, five in Greenbelt East and two in the core of town.

### Additional Comments

Councilmembers were pleased with the report but had questions. Councilmember Judith Davis pointed out that council receives a number of requests from Roosevelt Center merchants for more cameras. However, city crime statistics show that relatively little violent crime occurs there. There will never be enough cameras and/or officers to satisfy every demand, so the city has to seek balance when deciding where to place cameras.

Mayor Emmett Jordan called for a comprehensive approach to public safety including both cameras and officers. He also called on residents to understand that when in public they should have no expectation of privacy.

Police representative Gordon Pracht suggested first bringing the current system up to industry standards, including a software system the city can build upon. Dale Worley, the director of the city’s Information Technology (IT) Department, has already obtained a proposal from the vendor used by Hyattsville that is in the \$50,000 range to upgrade the camera software and increase storage. It does not cover additional cameras. Beyond that the city needs to have money in the budget every year to upgrade some cameras. Worley told council that the city cannot add any cameras until the upgrades to software and storage are completed.

Councilmember Silke Pope objected to trying to fix an old system, saying that it needs an overhaul instead. Worley agreed, noting that the vendor had recommended the same thing.

Most of the committee’s outreach occurred more than one year ago. Council asked that PSAC expand their study to Greenbelt Station to get a more

accurate picture of the needs of Greenbelt West.

### Problems Identified

PSAC found definite room for improvement. The problems encountered include lack of any program of regular maintenance, lengthy delays in repairing broken cameras, panning cameras that are too often pointed away from a crime scene until after the evildoers were gone, cameras that do not function well at night, inadequate storage capacity and inadequate training for relevant city staff.

Additional comments from city police included the fact there is often no video of sufficient quality to help police build a case. The police comments noted that when police have access to high quality video, whether from the city’s security or red light and speed cameras or those of businesses or nearby police departments, they are much more successful in convicting criminals than when they have to depend solely on witness testimony. Witness testimony is often challenged at trial for reasons such as reliability of testimony and witnesses sometimes refuse to testify.

Zirkin noted that even with additional cameras, residents still need to use common sense. People should not leave valuables in their cars in plain sight, rather than be shocked when the goods are stolen.

### Other Cities

The committee also talked to police departments including Hyattsville and the University of Maryland police in College Park. They incorporated what they had learned into their recommendations.

### IT Issues

PSAC also talked to Worley, whose staff manages all city cameras except for those at the Community Center and those in and around the Public Works facility. Worley confirmed that problems with the software the city uses are exacerbated by inadequate training by the vendor.

The city has no program of ongoing maintenance, which increases the likelihood of failure as well as increasing the time a camera is out of service awaiting repairs. The IT Department had looked into a service contract when the cameras were new but the price was higher than Worley felt was appropriate for new cameras.

Since then, Worley said, the

city has dealt with three different camera vendors and has been disappointed in all three from both a cost and a responsiveness perspective. Recently, his department has talked to Hyattsville and the vendor they used, as recommended by PSAC. Hyattsville is pleased with their vendor; to date Worley is as well.

In response to a question from Pope, Worley said that, with few exceptions, the cameras work but that newer cameras require less storage space for the same amount of information. He said that the city needs a program to systematically replace the cameras.

During preparation of last year’s budget, Worley had proposed adding a “camera system” line item for repair, replacement and maintenance of the system, but that item did not get beyond council’s wish list.

### Three Systems

There are actually three sets of city cameras. The Community Center and Public Works each have their own systems of cameras that they maintain. The remaining cameras are overseen by the IT Department.

Recordings from these sources vary widely in quality and police complain that, particularly for crimes against property, the recordings are often gone by the time police have time to work on the case. The retention policies for the different systems differ, even for the cameras for which Worley is responsible. The retention periods range from 7 to 10 days for non-police cameras maintained by the IT Department to 180 days for police video.

## Spruce, Fir and Pine Class for Children

On Monday, December 18 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Patuxent Research Refuge there will be a class on conifers for kids ages 5 to 7. Come enjoy the smell of conifers while learning about why they are still green.

Public programs at the refuge are free although advance registration is required by calling 301-497-5887. For more information visit the website at fws.gov/refuge/Patuxent. The Visitor Center is on Powder Mill Road between the Baltimore-Washington Parkway and Route 197.



PHOTO BY GLORIA BROWN

A hairy woodpecker searches for food.

## MAGLEV continued from page 1

indicated that the center could not take a position on the project proposed. Zhang was part of a panel that included Maryland Delegate Tawanna Gaines, whose district includes Greenbelt; and two members of the Citizens Against the SCmaglev Train group from Bowie.

### Citizens

Dennis Brady, chair of the group, told of its organization in May and how at the first meeting on the proposal in Bowie, only six people had shown up. By mid-July the group had around 60 members. Now it has over 2,700 and is still growing. This has been done by word of mouth, people talking to their neighbors, he said. The organization’s website and Facebook site provide information about the homes, businesses and other properties that would be impacted by this proposal to tunnel under properties or construct an elevated track on a trestle above or adjacent to them upon a new right-of-way. It also provides advice on what citizens can do to express their views and whom to contact.

Brady said it was important to not just express opposition but to identify environmental concerns to consider when contacting the MTA concerning the EIS. He said it was even better if you claim to be an expert on something. As an example, he suggested that the

owner of a historic home could claim to be an expert on historic preservation. If the comments are just negative, they are put in a pile and listed, but if an issue is raised, particularly by an expert, the MTA staff is obligated to look at it.

His group asked to obtain electronic copies of the maps being used for the study, Brady said, but was refused. So members developed their own maps and identified all properties to be affected. Their maps are posted on Facebook.

Brady explained that, of the federal monies passed through the state, about \$6 million is for the EIS. The remainder is to be used by BWRR for preliminary engineering work.

### Gaines

Gaines, who is on the appropriations committee and would have a say into any state funding request, said that the project has not been presented to the General Assembly. (The EIS is being undertaken by MTA with all costs covered by a \$27.8 million federal grant and 20 percent matching funds from BWRR.) She said that the delegates and Senator Paul Pinsky were looking for ways to put an end to the project. There had been an earlier maglev proposal that “we put the brakes on,” Gaines said, and she

See **MAGLEV**, page 9

Season's Greetings

Wishing you a very

Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays

and a New Year filled with Peace,

Joy and Happiness

Silke Pope,  
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# Police Blotter

Based on information released by the Greenbelt Police Department, [www.greenbeltnmd.gov/police](http://www.greenbeltnmd.gov/police). Dates and times are those when police were first contacted about incidents.

**Robbery**  
November 22, 4:15 a.m., 9100 block Springhill Lane. A man approached a person who was about to enter a vehicle, displayed a handgun and announced a robbery. He then took money, jewelry and a knife and fled on foot.

November 24, 6:40 p.m., 8000 block Brett Place. Two men, each wearing a ski-type mask, approached a food delivery person who had gotten out of his vehicle to make a delivery. Both men demanded money. They fled on foot after getting cash, jewelry and two pizzas. The delivery person was not injured.

**Intent to Distribute**  
November 27, 11:46 a.m., 7700 block Hanover Parkway. A 14-year-old Greenbelt youth was arrested for illegal possession of a prescription drug with intent to distribute, removing a label from a prescription bottle and possession of paraphernalia, after an officer observed a suspicious person possibly involved in a drug transaction. The youth was released to a parent pending action by the Juvenile Justice System.

**Theft**  
November 27, 11 p.m., 8000 block Greenbelt Station Parkway. Packages were taken from the front stoop of a residence.

**Fraud**  
November 26, 4:05 p.m., 6100 block Springhill Terrace. A man attempted to purchase a used car using a social media app and was advised to pay for the vehicle using eBay gift cards. After doing so, the vehicle was never delivered and the listing and contact information were removed.

**Burglary**  
November 24, 1:36 p.m., 7500 block Greenbrook Drive. A video game player, video games and a pair of boots were taken from a residence after a key had possibly been used to gain entry on November 21. No reason was given for the delay in reporting the incident.

November 26, 12:12 p.m., 8000 block Greenbelt Station Parkway. A sliding glass door was found partially open in an attempt to breach a residence. Entry was not gained.

November 26, 7:40 p.m., 6000 block Springhill Drive. The door lock assembly of a residence was tampered with in an attempt to enter a residence. Entry was not gained.

November 28, 7:45 p.m., 8000 block Brett Place. A tool bag and tools were taken from a residence after entry was gained by forcing open a basement window.

November 28, 8:22 p.m., 8000 block Mandan Terrace. A bicycle, two laptop computers, a guitar

and a drone were taken from a residence after entry was gained by breaking out a glass basement door.

November 29, 3 p.m., 7700 block Hanover Parkway. A vacant residence was entered after a dining room window had been broken out.

**Vehicle Crime**  
Fifteen vehicle crimes were reported and consist of one incident involving possible tampering and theft, nine thefts from vehicles, two attempted thefts from vehicles and three incidents of vandalism.

An officer on routine patrol on November 26 in the 9200 block Springhill Lane observed what he believed to be a tampering in progress. One of the persons involved entered a vehicle described as a white Chevrolet Impala bearing Virginia tags and used it to flee after it struck another police cruiser responding to the scene. A second person fled the area in a vehicle described as a grey Honda Accord, also bearing Virginia tags. Investigation revealed that three tires and rims had been taken from one vehicle. The investigation is ongoing. The officer was not injured.

Four tires and rims were taken from one vehicle in the 7700 block Hanover Parkway, three tires and rims from another in the 9200 block Springhill Lane (described above) and two tires and rims, again from one vehicle, this time in the 7700 block Lakecrest Drive. An attempt was made to steal tires and rims in the 200 block Lakeside Drive.

Six thefts involved the breaking out of windows. A backpack was taken in the 7800 block Mandan Road, where two other vehicles were broken into but nothing was taken. Power tools, front headlights and fog lights were taken from the same vehicle in the 8100 block Lakecrest Drive. In the 5700 block Greenbelt Metro Drive packaged food was taken from one vehicle and a hat, boots and GPS unit from another, in addition to its ignition having been tampered with. Medication, personal documents and a pair of earrings were taken in the 7500 block Hanover Parkway. A purse was taken from an unlocked vehicle in the 6100 block Breezewood Drive.

Three instances of vandalism were reported. A front passenger window was broken out in the 9100 block Edmonston Road. In the 6100 block Breezewood Drive four tires on one vehicle were flattened, side mirrors broken and two windows broken out. A hood was dented in the 7800 block Hanover Parkway.

## MAGLEV continued from page 8

felt that they would be able to do it again.

Pinsky said that he and the delegates had intended to organize a meeting, but that Washington had beaten them to it. He asked audience members to raise their hands if they had ridden Metro in the past week. About half said they had. He then asked how many had ridden Amtrak to Baltimore, and there was almost no response.

Pinsky felt that the governor should be doing more to provide the needed funding for Metro and claimed that Hogan was preventing an area-wide funding agreement from occurring. The maglev would be expensive to ride and of no benefit to working people, he contended. Instead of spending money on public transit needs, he said the governor wanted to spend it on widening highways such as the Baltimore-Washington Parkway.

Delegate Anne Healey also spoke at the meeting. She said that she served on the Transportation and Environment Committee of the Maryland legislature. Her committee was involved in state policy relating to transportation, while Gaines's committee would appropriate funds, and they would work together to deal with this project. She criticized the recent hearing at Bowie State College where there was a large turnout. Those with specific questions had to go to different tables to find the right person to answer them appropriately.

**Eminent Domain**  
As a franchised railroad, BWRR has the power of eminent domain to acquire land for a

right-of-way, Healey noted. She thought the legislature should look into whether this power should be taken back from the railroads.

Responding to a question from the audience, Bill Boone (a geologist and co-organizer of the citizen group) said that originally, tunneling was planned to be 60 to 90 feet underground, but now the planners were talking about 100 to 120 feet. He said the tunnel would be approximately 43 feet in diameter and he did not know the dimensions for the thickness of its walls. He estimated that the tunnel would be some 50 feet below the basements of homes. (Two of the proposed routes would tunnel under homes in Greenbelt East.) He also noted that, while tunnels would be bored, it would be necessary to do trenching when the tracks emerged from underground to be elevated, and he had no information on the distance it would take for such a disruption. (One of the proposed routes would emerge from underground in the city's forest preserve.)

Boone also said that originally it was planned to tunnel only 40 percent of the route, but it now had been increased to 70 percent. He thought the original \$10 billion cost was now at \$17 billion. Based on those estimates, he had calculated that it would cost \$50 to \$80 billion to extend the line to New York City and \$250 to \$300 billion to construct a line to Charlotte.

**Birds**  
Susan Stern of Greenbelt was concerned about the magnetic waves generated by a maglev,

noting that birds relied on a magnetic field level for migration. Zhang said that the engine would generate twice as much as the earth's strength, which is much less than a television set. But he could not answer the question because his group had not studied that effect on birds.

Greenbelt resident Paul Downs asked Brady how his group had gotten people active on this issue. He said it was through word of mouth and providing information on the internet as to whom to contact. The group has also prepared suggested letters to write and listed the names of suggested recipients.

Brady also said that originally this was a NIMBY (not in my backyard) thing, but the more they looked into it, the more they felt it was an economic issue. There are much better ways to spend these funds, he thought, including a next-generation Acela train, which can do 240 mph.

One questioner asked why there had been no press coverage of this issue. Washington noted the presence of the Greenbelt News Review and Greenbelt Television at the meeting.

## Free Drop-In Grief Support Group

Doctors Community Hospital will hold a drop-in grief support group on Monday, December 11 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Critical Care Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Lanham. This group provides supportive listening, sharing and psycho-educational resources to persons grieving. Call 301-808-5671 to register.

The Department is offering a reward of up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of a suspect in any of the unsolved crimes reported in the blotter.  
Call 1-866-411-TIPS. Drug Tip Line at 240-542-2145.

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# Torpedo Factory Show Sparks TV Spotlight for Sally Davies

by Cathie Meetre



Sally Davies poses by one of her canvases at the opening reception of her July show at the Torpedo Gallery.

Earlier this year, the News Review reported on Greenbelter Sally Davies’ art show at the Torpedo Factory in Alexandria. Her successful show ran for a month and was featured in our paper on July 6 (available from our archive, [greenbeltnewsreview.com/issues/GNR20170706.pdf](http://greenbeltnewsreview.com/issues/GNR20170706.pdf)). Many stopped by and admired the vivid and original paintings, but one visitor turned out to be especially significant: a producer of Maryland Public Television’s (MPT) Artworks show, hosted by Rhea Feikin. The attraction was the large canvas paintings Davies exhibited.

MPT was interested in her technique, subject matter and unique viewpoints and requested her material be included in the PopUp Gallery segment, which

is a regular feature of the show that occurs part way through each episode. Davies describes herself as “on cloud nine” and is looking forward to watching the show when it screens. She notes that, “Apparently, artists are featured by invitation only, so I feel very honored to be asked.” Davies’ neighbors on Research Road and her family members in England and Canada are all poised to watch the episode, either on TV or when it streams, so it’s becoming quite the international event.

Episode 608 will premiere on December 14 at 8:30 p.m. on MPT. Check the channel guide for reruns. Check the MPT website to stream the program at [mpt.org/programs/artworks-season6/](http://mpt.org/programs/artworks-season6/).

PHOTO BY DERRICK EARLY

# Greenbelt FOP Hosts Shop With a Cop

The Greenbelt Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) announces that their annual Shop with a Cop will take place on Saturday, December 16 at the Target store in Beltway Plaza.

This program partners children from the community with Greenbelt police officers, allowing the kids to purchase Christmas presents for themselves and family members. Each child is allotted a budget of \$200 and is accompanied by Greenbelt police officers and department volunteers to make their purchases. The children are then brought back to a present-wrapping party where they can enjoy lunch while they wrap their gifts. Children are selected to participate through nominations by their elementary school.

This will be the FOP’s 11th year conducting Shop with a Cop. To date the program, which is funded through corporate sponsorship and community donations, has been able to assist more than 200 children.

Donations to fund this program are accepted by mail to Greenbelt FOP, P.O. Box 94, Greenbelt, MD 20768 or dropping them by the police station in an envelope marked Greenbelt FOP/Shop with a Cop. For further information, contact Scott Kaiser at 301-474-7200 or at [Skaiser@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:Skaiser@greenbeltmd.gov).

# City Notes

Refuse/Recycling/Sustainability crews collected 32.15 tons of refuse and 16.06 tons of recyclable material.

Fleet Maintenance crews performed preventative maintenance service and performed fuel induction service on a police vehicle; installed snow tires for the winter and replaced the rear pads and rotors of a police vehicle; repaired the power outlet adaptor, completed preventive maintenance service and replaced the rear brake pads and rotors, replaced the spark plugs and performed a fuel injection service on a police vehicle; installed a battery on a leaf vacuum; installed an air filter onto the sidewalk grinder; and installed a battery and performed preventive maintenance on a police vehicle.

Public Works has been working on adjusting the GAFC indoor pool temperature, as it dropped to 82 degrees last week.

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# Potter Helps Boy Mold His Own Pot at Festival of Lights



PHOTO BY MATT PAYNE

Angela Shearer demonstrated the potter’s wheel on December 2 as part of the Festival of Lights. Shearer is a Community Center pottery student. Jane Young reported that her grandson, Clay Martin, was especially entranced. When the other children and most of the crowd were gone, he asked Shearer if he could touch the clay. To his delight, she helped him mold his own pot. He plans to give the finished pot to his grandpap, John Lippert, for Christmas.

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